



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

US helps Skopje villages combat flooding

Chances of devastating floods in the Municipality of Ilinden, as happened last year, will be reduced, thanks to assistance from the American people through a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project inaugurated this week.

Last winter, flood waters entered homes and agricultural fields, damaged personal property and dashed hopes for the agricultural season. The severity of the flooding was due in part to the poor condition of the canals that channel excess water into the Vardar River.

The Municipality of Ilinden now believes they have solved this problem in the Village of Kadino.

The canals have been cleared of debris, and a new, more robust bridge has been constructed on the main road over the canal crossing. Financial and technical assistance for this activity was provided by the Municipal Good Governance Fund (MGGF) of USAID's Decentralization Project, which is designed to support Macedonian municipalities as they face the challenges associated with the decentralization process. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

"Our hope is that the floods that affected this area last winter will be a thing of the past, and that the people of Kadino will be able to work their fields, be safe in their houses, and more easily get their products to market," said Dick Goldman, USAID Mission Director.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>